

Historic, archived document

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C-PRO 95

1. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers.
2. MUSIC: Quartet, Rangers' Song.
3. ANNOUNCER: The United States Forest Service is divided into ten
4. regions, nine in the United States and the tenth in
5. Alaska. During the forest fire season, reports are
6. made daily to headquarters in Washington from the
7. Regions where fire conditions are most hazardous.
8. A few days ago a lengthy wire was received from one
9. of the western regions of the forest service, indicating
10. the number of fires burning, the forest and weather
11. conditions, and the prospect of future fires. When
12. the message was laid on the desk of an official
13. closely connected with the Region, he said, "This
14. is the worst report I have seen in ten years."
15. Throughout the western forests there has been little
16. rain during the spring and summer, a large number
17. of incendiary fires have been started, and many more
18. have been caused by sheer carelessness. But any
19. fire, large or small, is a menace to forests,
20. wildlife, private property and even to human lives
21. The United States Forest Service asks you to cooperate
22. in preventing the destruction of our forests and the
23. disaster of forest fires by being careful with any
24. kind of fire when you visit the forests.
25.

1. And now it's time again to visit our friend Ranger
2. Jim Robbins on the Pine Cone National Forest. Today,
3. we arrive in the middle of the morning to find Jim
4. and Jerry Quick, the Assistant Ranger in the office
5. of the Ranger Station---

6. JIM: I want to stick around 'till we get the next weather
7. report, Jerry.

8. JERRY: You bet, Jim --- Say, I wonder if ---

9. JIM: What's that, son?

10. JERRY: Nothing --- I just wondered what's keeping Mary..

11. JIM: Mary?

12. JERRY: Uhuh ---She said she was coming up here before she
13. start out for the picnic with those kids.

14. JIM: That's right, she did --- Where's she going?

15. JERRY: Galahad picnic ground.

16. JIM: (INTERESTED) Is she? The kids'll go for that.

17. One of the best swimmin' holes in the State under
18. Old Galahad, I've dived off the roots more n once.

19. PHONE RINGS

20. JERRY: That must be the Weather Bureau. (RECEIVER LIFTED)

21. Hello, Pine Cone Ranger Station ----Yeah --- Uhuh ---
22. Humidity's what? ----Five.

1. JIM: By George, that's worse'n I expected

2. JERRY: (REPEATING) Light southwest winds --Yeah -- Say,

3. how about some rain? --- Well, fix it up for us as

4. soon as you can. We'll appreciate anything you can

5. do --- Okay. Thanks.

6. RECEIVER REPLACED

7. JIM: By golly, we're in for a bad spell of it, if we

8. don't get some rain mighty soon.

9. JERRY: Wouldn't be so bad if it wasn't for those gusty

10. winds that keep popping up all the time.

11. KNOCKING ON DOOR. SCREEN DOOR OPENS

12. MARY: (OFF) Hello, everybody.

13. DOOR CLOSES

14. JERRY: Hi, Mary. I thought you weren't going to get here.

15. MARY: (FADING IN) At the very last minute I was afraid

16. I didn't have enough hot dogs for the children to

17. eat, so I stopped to buy another pound.

18. JIM: That's the proper spirit, Mary. Maybe Jerry and I'll

19. knock off and go along with you and the gang.

20. MARY: (LAUGHING) Oh dear, I'd have to buy five more pounds

21. of hot dogs.

22. THEY LAUGH

23. JIM: What kids are you taking with you, Mary? Tell me all

24. about it.

25.

1. MARY: Oh, Mrs. Robbins found out about some families
2. living in trailers at the tourist camp. The poor
3. children just don't have anything, so we thought it
4. would be nice to give them a real picnic
5. JERRY: Gee, that's swell.
6. JIM: You couldn't have picked a better place to take
7. them than old Galahad picnic ground.
8. MARY: They chose the place themselves. They'd heard
9. other children talk about the swimming hole and the
10. big tree.
11. JIM: Everybody around here knows about Galahad, yound
12. or old. I reckon that tree's been the family picnic
13. tree for more folks around here than you'd ever guess.
14. MARY: Why do they call it Galahad, Mr. Robbins?
15. JIM: Hanged if I know, Mary. It's always been called
16. Galahad, since I can remember. I reckon it's
17. because it stands up there all by itself, kinda
18. like a protective Knight.
19. JERRY: It's nothing but a doggoned old wolf tree. Isn't
20. worth fifty cents for timber.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.

1. JIM: No, it isn't, but did you ever take a real good
 2. look at it? You know it looks like an old man,
 3. standing up there, looking over the rest of the
 4. trees around it. Sorta has a character all its
 5. own, with its broken branches and busted crown.
 6. It always reminds me of a gruff old fella who's
 7. "grandpa" to the whole country side.

8. PHONE RINGS RECEIVER LIFTED

9. JERRY: I'll get it, Jim --- Hello, Pine Cone --- What?
 10. Yeah Bert --- At old Galahad? -- Much of a smoke?
 11. JIM: Fire at Galahad?

12. JERRY: Yeah --- Oka, Bert. Have you dispatched the
 13. truck yet?

14. JIM: Tell him to hold it. We'll go with 'em.

15. JERRY: Jim says hold it. We'll go with the boys --- Yeah.

16. RECEIVER REPALED

17. MARY: Is there a forest fire at the picnic grounds?

18. JERRY: Yeah, that was the dispatcher, Mary.

19. MARY: Oh dear, we can't go then, can we, Mr. Robbins?

20. JIM: I don't know, Mary. Depends on how bad it is.

21. JERRY: If we can get there fast enough ---

22. JIM: Mary, you and Bess stay here until you hear from us.
 23. When we report the fire back to the dispatcher you
 24. can find out from him how much of a fire it is.
 25.

1. SIREN FADES IN TO BACKGROUND

2. JERRY: There's the truck, Ben.

3. JIM: We'll have to go, Mary. You tell Bess.

4. MARY: I will, Mr. Robbins.

5. JIM: (FADING) We've got to get there plenty fast. If
6. a five gate started now we'll --

7. MUSIC UP

8. MOTOR AND SIREN SEGUES INTO MUSIC: MUSIC OUT: MOTOR AND SIREN TO
9. STOP THROUGH DIALOGUE

10. JIM: (FADING IN) There it is, Ben. Look. It's Old
11. Galahad.

12. JERRY: Gee, it's like a burning torch.

13. JIM: We'll have to cut it down quick or it'll set the
14. whole forest on fire.

15. VOICE: I'll pull up here across the road, Jim.

16. JIM: Good enough.

17. JERRY: We'll have to tear into it.

18. MOTOR STOPS. CROWD UP: CACKLE OF FLAMES

19. JERRY: Let's go, boys. Shorty, you and Tom get the axes
20. and some steel wedges. Rig up the cross-cut, too.

21. JIM: (SHOUTING ORDERS) Get those spot fires with your
22. back rumps. Ben, you start the boys on the line.

23. VOICE: (OFF) Okay, Jim.
24.
25.

1. JIM: Come on, Jerry. Let's go over there and have a
2. look at old Galahad.
3. JERRY: How the deuce could a fire get started here? All
4. the fireplaces here are well protected.
5. JIM: Some idiot might have built a campfire under the
6. tree.
7. JERRY: Say look, Jim. I'll bet that's what happened.
8. Here's a tin can
9. JIM: Why in the name of mercy would anybody do a thing
10. like that?
11. JERRY: Anybody ought to have sense enough not to build a
12. campfire against a tree.
13. JIM: Looks like somebody threw a handful of dirt on it.
14. JERRY: I'd like to catch the guy that did it
15. JIM: Might be some fella up here fishing.
16. JERRY: Maybe he's still around here
17. JIM: Well, if he was careless enough to leave his campfire,
18. he'd be careless enough to throw away a lighted
19. cigarette or cigar.
20. JERRY: Sure he would. And he'd start more fires.
21. JIM: The boys can handle this fire without us, Jerry. I
22. think we'd better see if we can locate the party
23. that's started it.
24. JERRY: I'm right with you on that.
25.

1. JIM: (SHOUTING) Hey, Ben, you take over. We're going
 2. up the crick (FADING) to see if we can locate the
 3. party that's responsible ---
 4. MUSIC UP AND OUT
 5. CRACKLING OF BRUSH
 6. JIM: (FADING IN) Well, he's not along here anywhere,
 7. son.
 8. JERRY: He might have gone downstream.
 9. JIM: I reckon he did. We haven't seen any tracks or
 10. anything---Let's head for the road. (FADING) It
 11. isn't far over here to the left ----
 12. PAUSE
 13. JERRY: (FADING IN) I see a clearing ahead of us, Jim.
 14. JIM: Must be the road.
 15. JERRY: Don't see any cars.
 16. JIM: He'd have to drive to get here --- Let's cut
 17. back toward the fire.
 18. JERRY: Looks like the smoke's about the same. I guess
 19. the boys are holdin' their own.
 20. JIM: No wind now. Hope they've got Old Galahad down.
 21. CAR STARTS OFF MIKE
 22. JERRY: Hey, Jim, I thought I heard a car.
 23. JIM: Sounds like it, all right.
 24. JERRY: I don't see any.
 25. JIM: Must be on the road.

1. JERRY: Maybe it's on the road around a curve ---
2. JIM: There it is. We've got to stop him.
3. THEY SHOUT TOGETHER
4. JIM: Hey, stop there. Wait a minute, etc
5. JERRY: Stop that car. Hold it. Hey, you. Wait
6. CAR FADES IN AND COMES TO STOP WITH MOTOR IDLING
7. DAWSON: (FADING IN) Did you fellas come from that fire
8. up ahead?
9. JIM: That's right.
10. DAWSON: Is it very bad?
11. JIM: I don't think it is now. Depends on how the wind
12. treats us.
13. DAWSON: I've been fishing along the crick all day. Didn't
14. see the smoke until about an hour ago. But it kept
15. gettin' worse, so I figured I'd better get out while
16. the goin' was good.
17. JIM: It'd be mighty dangerous if the fire got away from
18. us.
19. DAWSON: You fellas are forest rangers, aren't you?
20. JIM: That's right. United States Forest Service.
21. DAWSON: Well, hop in. I'll give you a lift.
22. JIM: You say you've been fishing along the crick?
23. DAWSON: Yeah. Got up here with the birds this morning. I
24. always have better luck early.
25. JIM: That's right.

1. DAWSON: I cooked my own breakfast down the crick a ways,
2. Sort of a campground there.
3. JIM: Did you?
4. DAWSON: I saw some fireplaces there, but they were all
5. pretty big, so I built my fire at the foot of a
6. big tree. Maybe you know the place I mean.
7. JIM: I reckon we do --- Did you put your fire out before
8. you left?
9. DAWSON: Sure I did. I'm an old hand at this game. I
10. threw a pile of dirt on it --- Say, wait --- You
11. don't mean --- You don't think I started that fire?
12. JIM: Yes, I do.
13. DAWSON: Now look here. I wouldn't do a trick like that. I
14. come out here to fish about once or twice every month
15. during the season. I put that fire out before
16. I left.
17. JIM: We saw where you threw a little dirt on it. But
18. that's about the worst thing you could have done.
19. DAWSON: What do you mean? It'll smother a fire.
20. JIM: Yes, if you bury the whole fire with damp earth. But
21. you only scraped up some of the dry dirt full of pine
22. needles. It made the fire burn better.
23. JERRY: Why didn't you pour water on it? There's a creek
24. ten feet away.
25.

1. DAWSON: I didn't have a bucket.

2. JERRY: You could have used your hat.

3. DAWSON: I didn't think about that.

4. JIM: I'm afraid I'll have to arrest you for negligence.

5. Mr. -----

6. DAWSON: Arrest me?

7. JIM: We know the fire was started by a campfire that--

8. DAWSON: But you said it wasn't much of a fire. Why do you

9. have to arrest me?

10. JIM: We never issue permits to build campfires in the

11. National Forests where there's a serious fire

12. hazard. If you ---

13. DAWSON: I didn't do any harm. What's a small fire amount to

14. anyway?

15. JIM: I guess you'd better tell your story to the judge

16. We'll go right into town now and ---

17. DAWSON (TOUGH) No we won't.

18. GEARS SHIFTED: CAR STARTS OFF AT HIGH SPEED

19. HERRY: (SHOUTING) Hey, come back here. Stop! Hey, stop!

20. MUSIC UP AND OUT

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

1. ANNOUNCER: Well, it looks as if the fire setter is one up on
 2. Jim. Tune in again next week to hear the next part
 3. of this story. Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to
 4. you every Friday on the Farm and Home Hour through
 5. the courtesy of the National Broadcasting Company
 6. with the cooperation of the United States Forest
 7. Service

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